



OCTOBER 2013 NEWSPAPER



THIS QUEER PIN@Y IS CELEBRATING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY TODAY

I am Indigenous. My ancestors were colonized, raped and had countless atrocities committed against them by conquistadors that soon followed Columbus' galleons of disease and death. I have spent most of my life trying to reclaim what little remained of my people's indigenous heritage after 400 years of occupation, subjugation and genocide, by men who looked very much like Christopher Columbus, or rather Cristobal Colon (yes, that is where the world "colonization" comes from.) I along with so many Indigenous Activists and allies have taken it upon ourselves to educate our communities, families, colleagues and friends about the root cause of our collective suffering and begin to address these issues from a decolonized framework.

But this is beside the point. Allow me to address the question:

Why do "some people" call it Indigenous People's Day rather than Columbus Day?

Simply put: Celebrating Columbus Day = Celebrating Genocide. Yah, I said it.

To me, Columbus and other conquistadors represent centuries of anguish, broken promises and the destruction of eons of tradition. So when people, especially people whom I consider respected colleagues celebrate him and his invasion, it hurts. It hurts on a very visceral level. My blood screams and the marrow in my bones burn. I do not know if this is the rage of my ancestors contained in my genetic memory but I do know that to allow this affront to continue is plainly, unjust and spits in the face of those who came before us. As social justice activists, we cannot abide by this rosy colored version of history. In order for us to truly be holistic in our activism we must acknowledge the past as it pertains to the inequitable present and future, of all oppressed peoples. It is blatantly disrespectful to invalidate the genuine need (and movement behind it) to acknowledge one day,

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you with much respect for all the support your Newspaper has provided me with these last few months. My story starts in New Hampshire in a strict religious family that follows the Bible completely. Not being allowed to date until a senior in high school didn't bother me all that much 'cause I knew in my heart I wasn't normal. And besides I was the most disliked kid anyways. At 18 I was arrested for criminal threats and sent to prison for 11 ½ years. By this point I knew I was attracted to other guys, but in prison being gay ain't good, so I did everything I could to hide me, I became a hater/a white supremacist. After 7 years of hate, I realized this ain't me and I broke down mentally. I could no longer stand lying to myself. For two years I struggled and finally just covered all my tattoos and let the real me show both inside and out. Because of my past I didn't last long on the yard, so now I sit in SHU awaiting my release in a few months. Yet thanks to your support I no longer care and I look forward to my freedom, and the knowledge that I can help support all of you just like you have supported me. In Love & Solidarity,

Cassie

Formerly incarcerated in Federal Prison in Pennsylvania

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out of 365 to be identified as a day of recovery, reclamation and decolonization.

Although, I am generations and centuries removed from Ferdinand Magellan's invasion, I still deal with my own internalized racism and self hatred that was instilled within the "Indios" of the Philippines by their Spanish overlords. My people are still dealing with the ramifications of systematic genocide, resource extraction, cultural colonization and the death of our gods at the hands of the European "explorers".

I would like to call on all of you to use Oct 10th as a day to self educate, open up that old copy of Howard Zinn's "The People's History Of the United States", find a local event; a teach-in, a protest, or a celebration of resistance and join, in solidarity with people who are still struggling for their side of history to be told. Don't just let this be another "day off" make it a "day on."

I will never celebrate Columbus. I will never honor the accomplishment of those who walked with death close behind them. I will never let the fury of my ancestors become silenced. I will not stand idly by watching the terror and pain of the Indigenous People's of this continent get white washed and Disneyfied. I will never allow the dignity and legacy of Indigenous People's who came before, to be sullied by the lies of the conquistadors.

I will never forgive and I will never forget.

October 14th is Indigenous People's Day.

Kalaya'an Mendoza Twitter: @KalaMendoza Facebook.com/kalayaan

**OCTOBER IS LGBT HISTORY MONTH
NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY OCTOBER 11
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY OCTOBER 14**

Dear Black & Pink Brothers, Sisters, Friends, & Family,

I greet you all with love, joy, and happiness. My name is Larry, better known as "IRISH." I am 22 years old, currently serving a 50 year sentence in Florida's department of corruption.

I have been receiving the B&P Newspaper for about 6 to 9 months now. I have finally found the courage thanks to Black & Pink to openly acknowledge I'm Gay. This caused an uproar. Because of my fear and self-hatred, I had been hiding behind the image of white supremacy and artificial hatred, which I realized is just fear and cowardice, so I stepped up and out. Black & Pink is wonderful.

I am practically separated from everyone in close management and on heightened security status for charges which put me in prison. My biggest downfall was hiding and running from the truth. I played Mr. White Supremacist, then told myself I was "Bi" like it would make it better than being Gay, and finally I had enough of hiding and just screamed out I'm gay. I'm careless about what anyone thinks anymore, I've been so happy since then. It actually made more people respect me for being open about my sexuality than hiding it so thank you Black & Pink, my beautiful family. I love you all!!

Bright Blessings and Good Luck!!

IRISH, Florida

**REJECT
WHITE SUPREMACY**



By Julio Salgado
<http://juliosalgado83.tumblr.com>

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Statement of Purpose

Black & Pink is an open family of LGBTQ prisoners and “free world” allies who support each other. Our work toward the abolition of the prison industrial complex is rooted in the experience of currently and formerly incarcerated people. We are outraged by the specific violence of the prison industrial complex against LGBTQ people, and respond through advocacy, education, direct service, and organizing.

About this Newspaper

Since 2007, Black & Pink free world volunteers have pulled together a monthly newspaper primarily composed of material written by our family’s incarcerated members. In response to letters we receive, more prisoners receive the newspaper each issue!

This month, the newspaper is being sent to: **3,655** prisoners!

Disclaimer:

Please note that the ideas and opinions expressed in the Black & Pink Newspaper are solely those of the authors and artists and do not necessarily reflect the views of Black & Pink. Black & Pink makes no representations as to the accuracy of any statements made in the Newspaper, including but not limited to legal and medical information. Authors and artists bear sole responsibility for their work.

Call for Submissions to New Erotica Zine!

Seeking erotic short stories and poems by Black & Pink incarcerated and free-world family members for a new ‘zine. Please send submissions to our Black & Pink - Gabrielle. This is a voluntary project, and no money will be offered for submissions, but you might get the chance to share your spicy story with many others! To subscribe to receive erotica, write to our new address, Black & Pink - Erotica.

Dear friends,
I hope this newspaper finds you do as well as possible. As we enter the month of October I can’t help but think about LGBT History Month. Following in the tradition of Black History Month, Women’s History Month, and others, LGBT History Month was first declared by a teacher, Rodney Wilson, who worked at a Missouri high school. The first LGBT History Month happened in 1994. October was chosen because October 11th had earlier been declared National Coming Out Day, and the first March on Washington for LGBT rights and liberation happened on October 14, 1979. There are many problems with the idea of a specific “history month” and it’s certainly not a long-term solution for LGBTQ justice and liberation. That said, I like having a moment where we get to be particularly demanding about getting our stories told. Can you imagine having an event on your block? Can you imagine hosting time to read about and talk about LGBTQ history with the folks around you? If you ever organize something like that, let us know. We would be more than happy to help with your efforts. What history do you find important? What stories do you know and want to tell? What stories do you still need to hear? One of the fun things about LGBTQ history is that it can also be the history of prisoner resistance, Black Power, Indigenous resistance, disability justice, and so much more, because we are everywhere!

I have focused on lots of LGBTQ history pieces in other newspapers, so that won’t be my focus right now. Instead, I want to tell you about some interesting news coming out of California. Firstly, all of us on the outside with Black and Pink send our greatest respect, love, and care to all the people who took part in any piece of the California Prisoner Hunger Strike. While the strike has been called off, there is much more work to do. We join the strikers, and all others, in the fight to end solitary confinement. We will continue pressuring the Governor and legislators to negotiate and meet some of the demands. While that fight has been going on, others have been struggling in California to pass a piece of legislation that would permit condoms in prison. The bill passed the California state Senate in September, and it is now awaiting action by Governor Brown. What California does with this bill could impact other efforts across the United States.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Black and Pink is currently processing mail from May. It can take us quite some time to get back to you, but with growing volunteers we are doing our best. We do look forward to getting in touch with you.
2. We cannot guarantee we will get your pictures back to you. If you mail us pictures, we will do our best to return them, but we are not able to make sure that happens.
3. Short intro from your new editor, Kyem. Greetings from Buffalo, NY. I’m excited to help bring the newspaper to you every month!

BLACK AND PINK STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND ANALYSIS

Black & Pink is an open family of LGBTQ prisoners and “free world” allies who support each other. Our work toward the abolition of the prison industrial complex is rooted in the experience of currently and formerly incarcerated people. We are outraged by the specific violence of the prison industrial complex against LGBTQ people, and respond through advocacy, education, direct service, and organizing.

Our goal is liberation. We have a radical view of the fight for justice: We are feminist. We are anti-racist. We want queer liberation. And we are against capitalism. Prisons are part of the system that oppresses and divides us. By building a movement and taking action against this system of violence, we will create the world we dream of.

We also celebrate the beauty of what exists now: Our love for each other. The strength of our planet. Our incredible ability to survive difficult experiences. All of the power we have to continue existing. While dreaming and struggling for a better world, we commit to living in the present.

Abolition is our goal and our strategy for action. Any advocacy, services, organizing, and direct action we

Getting condoms into prison is a key public health issue. How would having condoms available inside prison impact your life? We know that many people in prison willingly have sex with people they like. We also know that prisoners have higher rates of HIV, hepatitis, and other sexually transmitted infections. Just like on the outside of prison, using condoms when having sex is really important when trying to reduce the spread of HIV and other infections. Having condoms available and talking about safer sex is in no way an attempt to shame people living with HIV or other STIs. Condoms and safer sex practices are about making everyone safer, including people who are HIV+ or living with hepatitis. The possibility of condoms in prison also presents some more creative opportunities for “do-it-yourself” (DIY) toys. Condoms make for a very useful tool when trying to create a dildo to use on your own or with another person. Unfortunately, it is against the rules, and in many states against the law, for prisoners to have sex with each other (and in some places prisoners even get in trouble for masturbating). The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) has also increased guard harassment of prisoners in romantic relationships with each other. Black and Pink has gotten reports of prisoners getting disciplinary tickets for simply holding hands. Yet we still think it is important for us to advocate for condoms to get inside prison walls.

While people are fighting to get condoms into prison through legislation there was a group of AIDS activists in 1992 who had their own plan. A small group of folks rented a plane in Wisconsin and dropped hundreds of condoms into the yard of a maximum security prison. Unfortunately guards went around and took all of the condoms back calling them contraband. Imagine seeing a rainfall of condoms showering your prison. While it is not likely people will do a similar action in 2013, it is important for us to be creative getting things to prisoners that they need for their health. This is a big part of why Black and Pink exists. We use our newspapers, pen pal project, and advocacy efforts to follow the lead of prisoners and fight to get what they need. Governor Brown may or may not sign the bill for condoms in prison, but we will continue the larger fight for freedom on all levels knowing that once there were no prisons, that day will come again.

In loving solidarity,
Jason

SUBMIT TO FIRE INSIDE

California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP) is planning the next issue of our *Fire Inside* newsletter on solitary confinement and its specific impact on women and trans prisoners. There is increased national attention about the widespread, cruel and unusual use of prolonged solitary confinement in US prisons and Guantanamo, mainly due to the hunger strikes that prisoners have been undertaking to make this visible. We are receiving many questions about the specific conditions that women and trans prisoners face is SHU, Ad Seg and Control Management units and other types of solitary. We would appreciate information about this important subject from people in California and around the country. You can send the information to info@womenprisoners.org or mail to **CCWP, 1540 Market St., #490, SF, CA 94102.**

take will remove bricks from the system, not put up more walls. We want revolution. And we will work on reforms too, even if they are only small steps at ending the suffering caused by prisons.

Our work is based in the experience of people who are or were in prison. We know that those most hurt by the violence of the prison industrial complex have the knowledge of how to tear it down.

THE WORDS WE USE

There are many words in our Statement of Purpose and Analysis that mean different things to different people. Here is what they means to us:

PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX – The prison industrial complex is a system of control. It is the prisons and jails

Continued on Page 5...

What's up my B.P. Family,

It's yours truly lil Whytey from Indiana, and I'm going to have to say I loved the June/July 2013 Newspaper, but then again I love every issue of Black & Pink. It helped me come to my sexuality as Bisexual. I like men and women, and I'm coming out to say I am Bi-sexual. No more hiding who I am. I was scared about what people would think of me cuz I was affiliated wit a gang, which I still am, but people didn't really care that I like guys and girls. But it was Black & Pink who helped me wit my fear. So much love to you all and thank you, I couldn't have did it without you. So I love you all.

XOXOXOXOXO

lil Whyty, Indiana

Dear Black & Pink Family,

Greetings of peace, my name is Troy T., Ph.D, and I’m presently incarcerated and have been since 2009 here in California, which is one of the Nation’s most corrupt prison systems. Prison has opened my eyes to many things. Who can take responsibility for a punishment system that has functioned as a tool to support the legacy of colonialism, racism, and imperialism that is so deeply rooted in U.\$. culture? Understanding the use of imprisonment in its social and historical context provides a clearer view of the deep cultural beliefs that are still at work in this country’s discussion of crime and punishment. Prisons are still filled with the “unworthy poor”- cast as criminal, lazy, and incapable of rehabilitation. Criminal behavior is still cast as a personal (perhaps even spiritual) failing. Prisons still serve the purpose of containing immigrants (aka “illegal aliens”), people of color, poor whites, and the “deviant.” At the same time, it is astonishing how special interests—from those who design and build the latest in punishment and torture technology; to those who benefit from fruits of prison slave labor; to corporations that promote private prisons—are still able to profit from this arrangement. Prisons are being cast as the recession-proof moneymaker, revealing the faith that there will always be populations to control and an endless supply of prisoners.

The actual functions of the criminal justice (“just us”) system are unstated, unacknowledged, and even illicit. Any criminal justice system reflects the values (or lack thereof) of those who hold power in society. Thus, criminal law becomes a political instrument, formulated and enforced by those with status and power against those who predominantly are status poor and powerless.

Too often the social policies of the United States government benefit the rich at the expense of the poor. Law protects power and property; it safeguards wealth; and by the same token, it perpetuates the subordinate status of the people on the bottom.

This is particularly the case with the penal system. This system has penetrated all aspects of the lives of the poor. While wealth and material success are valued by our culture, the poor are feared. It is not hard to see, therefore, why most Americans have shown little concern for the increasing numbers of poor citizens in U.\$. prisons. Those who dissent have been neutralized (case in point-activist Mumia Abu-Jamal). Neutrality enables the status quo of oppression (and therefore violence) to continue. It is a way of giving tacit support to the oppressor.

As long as the economic system continues to reward greed and exploitation, the vast majority of people will not have enough to eat or safe places to sleep, or access to education, employment and health care. As long as we are caught in the revenge and punishment loop, there will be no hope for change. As long as institutions like prisons and courts continue to reinforce racial and sexual separation and enforce economic and social inequality, there will be no room for justice. True justice demands a radical change in the way resources are made available to all citizens, and a change in the structures of society. The goal should be a peace-building justice. This justice implies covenanted commitment among people, and between people and their government. This justice is not focused on the individual; it is about all of us!

In Solidarity & Towards Justice,

Dr. Troy T., California

Dear Black & Pink Family,

Hey, what’s up Fam? This is my first time writing but I have been following for a couple of years now. And I want to say that I do get encouraged a lot, and saddened by a lot of the stories. But don’t we all have one. I am currently incarcerated and facing the stings of persecution, discrimination, and hatred for who/what I am. I am doing 50 years agg. in Texas. I’ve been here for 15 years and see parole in 10 more years. I am also a 40 year old Butch lesbian. I have been “this way” basically my whole life. And those who know me know that I just didn’t come to TDCJ to be ‘gay for the stay’ as they call it.

I’ve had struggles all my life but none like I am forced to face here in prison because of what I am, because of the way I was born. I want to be the Voice for us Butches in TDC that have it real hard. See, TDCJ don’t allow us to be comfortable with ourselves. The system don’t support my lifestyle and thes e officers go out of their way to make us miserable. They also spend 99.9% of their time finding out who is with who so that they can spend more taxpayer money to do all the paperwork to separate us for our living areas, which results in a lot of OPI’s [Offender Protection Investigation] and unnecessary paperwork. But they don’t care, it’s just to make us miserable.

One big discrimination that us Butches do face is that we are being forced to let our hair grow out long. They are making up these rules, and saying it is per policy that we let our hair grow out, yet the same rules that us offenders have to follow the CO’s do too. Now this in no way is rehabilitating us in any way.

Myself, I have identified with the male gender all my life. I came into the system with a bald fade as a lot of these other butches did. Even though we came here like that we are now being forced to let it grow out “per policy.” They are making comments like, “You are a female, so you will grow your hair like one,” or “You are not a man, you’re supposed to let your hair grow out.” Comments like this are clearly discrimination. But when we write it up, our grievances get denied because there is no evidence of any of this being said to us on the side. This makes me believe that they are just enforcing this so-called rule on us to humiliate us by trying to make us be someone we are not comfortable being,

which results in serious mental issues that they don’t care about. Like depression, I have to go through it a lot in here. These thoughts can lead to other serious thoughts. None of what they are doing to us will help us become a better citizen. They are instilling their hate onto us.

How will this help us in society? What does cutting our hair the way that makes us comfortable have to do with anything that breaks the law? They write us cases such as “Extreme Haircut” or “Altering the appearance,” but get this, the very same officers that force this rule wear their hair “extreme” and they aren’t supposed to. Me personally, if I let my hair grow out than that will be “altering my appearance” ‘cause I have never had long hair. I’ve had my hair in a short bald fade since the 1990’s. But they don’t see it that way, because their purpose is to harass us and make us as miserable as they can. We are forbidden to walk around here looking nice & clean cut because these guards have a problem with it. I do follow the rules in this place. I go for years without a case and the minute I cut my hair to make me feel good and proud of who I am, I get a case which goes major, and can halt me from going home at the right time. This has really had an effect on me mentally, and has caused me to act out in the past. But I want to be “good” for a better chance at my parole in the future, but how can I if these people go out of their way to take the only thing that makes me feel comfortable with myself? It’s bad enough they keep us away from our lovers. We can’t be happy in here. Yet half of these CO’s, Ranks, and Wardens are gay or lesbian themselves.

This is a major problem in here and we are tired of it. It is discrimination of gender identity by the wardens, rank officials, and CO’s to try to make me change my gender presentation, which is related to my sexuality, Gay-Butch lesbian. It is not TDCJ policy to try to convert me to a hetero-female stereotype, long hair and all.

I am proud of myself and I want to fight for my beliefs. I pray for a better future for us. I also pray for all my family that have it worse than this in the male units. I love you all. One day this too will be behind us, until then lets support each other and be kind to everyone.

Love & Peace,

Nancy aka Angel, Texas

Greetings my B&P Sisters and Brothers,

Despite great progress in the equal rights struggle in the free world, there has been an upsurge of anti-gay/homophobic attitudes and hostile actions directed at LGBTQ prisoners by both staff and fellow prisoners. With close to 20 years in the system, I’ve kept a low profile and enjoyed mostly “Teflon” smooth sailing. A year ago my luck ran out. I was jumped by 3 gang members and raped by the leader. Since then I’ve learned a few things I’ll share with B&P Family:

1. If you are sexually assaulted/abused, it is up to you whether you report to authorities.
2. Should you choose to report the incident/seek care, etc, it is vital to know your rights under PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) and your local Docs/ BOP directives/policies.
3. Once involved with the post sexual assault/abuse cycle, one must ensure that staff are properly documenting incidents (fail your records at each stop of the process), otherwise you may find yourself repeating investigative interviews each time you state the words “sexual assault.”
4. With PREA standards coming into full effect, BOP/State Doc’s have federal

funding and administrative jobs at risk if their facilities have high rates of sexual assault/abuse or are found to not be reducing rates. This creates unintended consequences of PREA- If a facility or system administrators don’t report and/or document sexual assault/abuse, it is as if it never happened. “Trees falling in the forest with no one to hear...”

5. Post sexual assault, STD/STI [Sexually Transmitted Infection] testing is very important. Don’t let yourself be put off by medical staff. I faced resistance over HIV testing before receiving it. I was denied, before grievance, Hepatitis C (HCV) testing. Staff stated, “HCV is not a risk factor from sexual assault.” This is patently false. Testing was not approved until I insisted they put that statement in writing (see a trend here? Docs hate documentation. Verbal lies are cheap, but written ones cost them money in court!)

When I first heard they didn’t have a record of my sexual assault I failed medical records, ‘cause the injuries were cited as “Inmate fell.” The Inspector General’s office found it curious that I was locked down in IPC (Involuntary Protective Custody) due to a “fall.” Except when one “falls” on a penis...

Do your own research on your rights, and take care all.

—Gerri, New York

Hello,

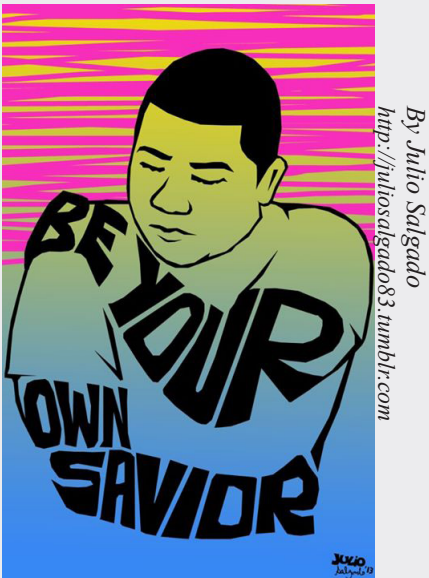
My name is Jezzabell, I’m a transsexual. I have been a closeted girl for a long time. ‘Til one day a good friend named Abby took my hand and helped me out. I have always been a girl, just not in front of no one. But now I have nothing to stop me from being the real me.

It all started like this. Back in 2000 when I came down I did not know what to do. I was that scared little girl. Not six months after being there I was raped. I did not know it could happen to me. Even as a girl, I did not think it would come down to that. That is why I was in the closet in my safe place. I was in that safe place a long time, ‘til my friend Abby help me out. She is a transsexual girl like me and is teaching me a lot. Then I got a man who showed me the in’s and out’s. Pampered me like his Queen. His name is Big 80, and he is the first Black man I have ever loved. I will always remember him as long as I’m alive. That is my story, I hope you all like it. Just remember all the girls out there, do not take nothing from no one and do not be afraid to tell someone if you are getting hurt.

I’ll end with a Poem:

She come back
Through blood by blood
She returns
Cut deep now
Like me
Humanity saves her
Will she save me.

Sincerely,
Jezzabell, Texas



Dear Black & Pink Family,

Hey everyone, this is Cassy from Texas. My real name is Carlos, but over time I’ve become one w/ my transgender nature, so I’m Cassy and comfortable. This is my first letter to the B&P community. I’ve received the Newspaper, and was inspired to write from all the wonderful stuff that is published.

The main reason why I’m writing is to address the community about the Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1996 (PLRA). Because most all of us LGBTQ are in struggle for the same cause, the PLRA is extremely harmful to those of us in prison seeking relief from the courts. These very strict, and oppressive guidelines of the PLRA can get your suit dismissed right off the jump, or it can cause you countless headaches as your suit winds its way through the court system. Even years down the road, the PLRA can be the final death blow to your suit even if you have a perfect slam dunk case, and no matter what harm you suffered. The PLRA in itself is an attack on our civil rights, and oppresses us as prisoners, as if being in prison is not oppressive enough!

Pay extra close attention to the “Exhaustion” requirement of the PLRA. If you do not follow it to the “t” then you are only wasting your time. This requirement makes it almost impossible to get relief from the courts as a “prisoner.” The

PLRA was designed to discourage prisoners from bringing suit in the courts by making you jump through hoop after hoop after hoop. Don’t be discouraged, and we can fight this injustice directed at prisoners. I have faith that we can right this wrong if we stand together.

So my main question to everyone is: how do we fight something so harmful to us, this “Act” that was signed into law by the President and Congress??

I don’t have a direct answer for this, but I believe that we maybe can amass in some type of petition to the President to repeal the PLRA to assure that everyone, whether in prison or in the free world share the same rights of a fair opportunity in the courts of law.

But I want everyone to remember- no matter what they say or their title in government, they are only the 1%, we are the 99%!! So my brothers and sisters, stay strong in all of your struggles, because your struggles are my struggles, and mine yours, in unity we will ultimately prevail.

All My Respects,
Cassy
On Temporary Release in Texas

Hey Everyone in the GLBTQ world,

My name is Nicole (Nikki) Lynne, and I’m incarcerated in Texas (TDCJ-CID). I’m currently serving a 25 year sentence which I have completed 14+. I have been reading B&P now for about 3 years but have never before written in. I do so now to tell a true story and to give fair warning to all you Boys and Girls who are in the Texas system.

As I said, I’ve been locked up more than 14 years, and have never before caught a code 20.3 case. That’s a “Consensual Sexual Misconduct” case here in TDCJ. I recently got caught in the act of having sex with another inmate by an officer (who happens to be a lesbian), and was written up for it. Yeah, I know I should have been more careful. However, since both the guy I was with and I are both on paper for having HIV, now we are both sitting in Ad-Seg without being allowed to attend the hearing.

According to the Unit Administration, my continued presence in general population poses a threat to the safety of the offender population. This is my first

time ever receiving a case of this manner and now I’m being treated as though I’ve been repeatedly written up for this. I have as a rule always made sure that: 1. The guy knows I’m HIV+, and 2. I am 100% adherent to my HIV medicine.

To top all of this off, the Major lied on his paperwork, saying that I was given the opportunity to plead my case. I was purposely excluded from my ASC hearing, so I couldn’t plead my case.

Please learn from this. If you are sexually active in prison, know the risks and take precautions. Even if it’s your first time, they don’t care. They lied on the paperwork- they don’t care! They will do whatever it takes to bring you down, if you get caught. They don’t want us Gay and Transgenders in population in the first place.

Peace, Love & Harmony,
Blessed Be,
Nikki Lynne, Texas

Q&A: TRANSGENDER LAWYER COMES OUT IN PROTEST



Masha Bast is used to facing formidable tasks.

As the chairwoman for the Association of Russian Lawyers for Human Rights, Bast has worked on some of the most high-profile and politically sensitive cases in the country. She helped defend protesters implicated in violence at a 2012 opposition rally on Bolotnaya Ploshchad; young men accused of taking part in a violent nationalist rally on Manezh Square in 2010; and the so-called Primorye partisans, dubbed the “Russian Rambos” by the media after they targeted corrupt policemen in the Far East.

The Moscow Times sat down with Bast to discuss all the recent activity in her life. This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Only recently, with those cases having come to an end and her client in the Bolotnaya case having been released, has she found time to fully embrace another, deeply personal project: living her life as a woman.

Just last week in a press release prepared by her spouse, Yulia Guseinova, Bast publicly announced that she would no longer be living her life as Yevgeny Arkhipov, but as Masha Bast. She invited people to follow her progress on Facebook as she undergoes hormone treatment and surgeries, and also said she would answer any questions that they may have about her journey.

Since then, the couple has begun working to raise awareness about her and the transgender community in Russia as a whole.

At a time when LGBT life in Russia is increasingly marginalized and violence toward the LGBT community is on the rise, Bast’s public announcement came as quite a shock to some. But she wouldn’t have it any other way, saying she’s happier now than ever.

Q: Masha, why did you decide to come out now, and in such a public way, particularly at a time when the situation for the LGBT community seems to be getting worse and worse?

A: There were three reasons for my decision. First, it would have been very difficult for me personally not to come out. Second, having represented people in the Manezh Square, Primorsky partisans, and Bolotnaya cases, when those finished up I finally had the opportunity to come out. Third, my coming out was a protest against what is going on in Russia today. I couldn’t just sit there and do nothing.

Q: What made you transgender?

A: There are people who actively choose their gender, and there are people who don’t think about it, or they try and avoid questioning it because of their religious beliefs or other reasons. Those who choose to decide their own gender because their internal gender doesn’t match their external appearance are called transgender, especially when they take visible steps to make their external gender match their internal gender. I don’t think of myself as transgender though — I just think of myself as a woman. I do, however, consider myself part of the LGBT community because we are all in the minority.

The law banning gay propaganda among minors is completely wrong, though. I remember being 10 and wanting to be a girl and putting on girl’s clothes. I didn’t understand what was happening to me.

Continued on Page 7...

Black ‘N Pink-

My name is Princess Trinity and and I wanted to relay what I, as an open Homosexual, have to endure in Arizona’s Dept of Corrections. I have continuously asked for Protective Seg. Due to my being an open homosexual, it is a risk on yards. I have been denied 3 times and once the reason stated I “had not been assaulted.” Oh! So I have to get assaulted before I get approved? Wow! At this time I am currently maxed out due to my behavior. I tried to “fit in” by joining a well known prison gang in here and just got extorted and used. I have constantly requested that I be placed in protective custody, but they don’t see the threat. They (DOC) tell me I should be in “heaven” and “prison is like Disneyland for you.” Mind you that was a Lt. that stated these remarks to me. I am at my end and I need help from my community to let these individuals here at Arizona Dept of Corrections know that being a homosexual is not a walk in the park while in prison and what we endure is stressful and at times very degrading. To be called a faggot and other hateful slurs hurts.

Once an inmate who lives above me continued to call me degrading

CA Hunger Strike Ends: Statement from the Mediation Team

[A] joint statement of Senator Hancock and Assemblymember Ammiano reads in part: “The issues raised by the hunger strike are real... and can no longer be ignored.” Assemblymember Ammiano said further, “The Courts have made clear that the hunger strikers have legitimate issues of policy and practice that must be reviewed. The Legislature has a critical role in considering and acting on their concerns. We cannot sit by and watch our state pour money into a system that the US. Supreme Court has declared does not provide constitutionally acceptable conditions of confinement and that statistics show has failed to increase public safety.”

The legislative call was just one of several signs of progress the prisoners noted. CDCR officials, who refused to negotiate on any demands during the strike, did meet with the prisoners in person or by phone, to listen to them and seek resolution. Mike Stainer, Director of Adult Institutions, promised to travel to PelicanBay on the week of September 23 to discuss with the prisoner representatives their demands and new CDCR policies being developed on

BLACK AND PINK STATEMENT OF PURPOSE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

and detention centers- the concrete and steel buildings that warehouse people. The prison industrial complex is also how the government and companies work together to control, punish, and torture poor communities and communities of color. This includes the police. And immigration enforcement. And courts. And how the news and movies show “criminals.” And cameras in communities. And companies making money on prison phone calls. And how schools are set up to fail us. And many others ways that take power away from many, and keep it with those at the top. (Adapted from Critical Resistance)

ABOLITION – Abolition means a world where we do not use the prison industrial complex as an ‘answer’ to social, political, and economic problems. Abolition means that instead we make new ways to stop harm from happening. It means responding to harm when it does happen, without simply “punishing.” We will try to fix the causes of harm, instead of using the failed solution of punishment. This means harm will occur far less often. This is often called “harm reduction.” We will not use policing, courts, and prisons, which are making us less safe. Abolition means creating sustainable, healthy communities

MEET THE TRANS SCHOLAR FIGHTING AGAINST THE CAMPAIGN FOR OUT TRANS MILITARY SERVICE

[...] In an email discussion with BuzzFeed, Dean Spade sought to push back against the recent focus on trans military service:

So, what’s going on here?

Dean Spade: The U.S. military has recently lifted the ban on women in combat and begun to let lesbians and gay men serve openly. Some see these changes as advances for equality, and some have identified the remaining exclusion of trans people from military service as a next target to change. Many universities are letting the military recruit on campus again now that it no longer officially discriminates against gay and lesbian employees, but on some campuses controversy is erupting because the ban on trans service has not yet been resolved. As the nation and world ponder U.S. military intervention in Syria, the LGBT movement in the U.S. is divided about its views about military service and U.S. militarism.[...]

What’s wrong with the campaign for military inclusion? First and most obviously, it is pro-military. Like the campaign for gay and lesbian inclusion in military service, the talking points of this campaign center around romantic pro-war fantasies about the military. The new documentary video series, TransMilitary, as well as recent coverage of Kristin Beck, the trans Navy SEAL, rely heavily on these tropes: Trans people just want to serve the country we love; we are proud soldiers; the military is an organization where we form lifelong relationships with our “brothers and sisters in arms”; military service is a great job that gives people access to college; and the military protects our country.

It’s true that trans people need jobs. But is military service a job we want? A survey released in July reports that 30% of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have contemplated suicide, 43% say they are not seeking mental health care because they fear it will negatively impact their careers, and 80% say they do not think vets are getting as much care as they need. A Pentagon study released in May documents the epidemic of sexual assault in the U.S. military, with over 70 incidents occurring each day. The study’s findings were released two days after

names and then when I shined him off, he threw a mixture of urine and feces inside the vent. When I let the COS know they said there is nothing they can do about it right now. When I stated what are they going to do about the smell of feces and urine coming out of the vent, they stated there is nothing they can do. Then when I asked “So I have to live in here with the smell?” they responded, “Yeah.”

I don’t know if anyone is going through this type of situation but please write kites to your CO, exhaust your Administrative Remedies, and file for a Section 1983, as well write to the ACLU and LGBT projects, let them know what we are enduring, the more they hear from the community behind bars the more they will be willing to help. At this time ADOC is giving me no help, I have requested to move out of this current cell that smells like a port-a-pottie. But still nothing. It’s time to research our rights. It’s time to fight fire with fire. Let us create our own “concrete utopias”.

Lots of Love,
Princess Trinity, Arizona

gang validation and SHU placement. One prisoner described such meetings as “historic.”

The Mediation Team is hopeful that today marks the beginning of finding ways to redress prisoners’ grievances short of starvation. The 602 process used by the CDCR for individual complaints is completely broken and new avenues must be put into place. We herald this day as the beginning of a new understanding that prisoners are human beings, with legitimate rights, and the realization that when the state restricts some freedoms, it also assumes responsibilities to treat people justly and humanely. The prisoners never asked to be released or even for shorter sentences. Rather, they asked to be free from isolation, to have regular contact with their families, meaningful activities, and livable conditions. [...]

The Mediation Team is in awe of the courage and leadership shown by all the prisoners who have sacrificed so much. We look forward to serving the process as it moves forward.

with the power to create safety. (Based on words by Rose Braz, former director of Critical Resistance)

“FREE WORLD” – We use “free world” for people not in prison, jail, or detention. We use quotation marks, because we understand the word “freedom” to be complicated. Some people say none of us are free because the arms of the prisons, courts, and police reach into our communities, home, jobs, and schools. Some say freedom is within ourselves and that it can never be taken from us. When we say “free world, ” we mean people not in prison, jail, or detention right now.

LGBTQ – These letters stand for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer. We know that sexuality and gender are much bigger than these letters. People also call themselves: same gender loving, homosexual, homophile, transsexual, transvestite, nelly, sissy, dyke, and many others labels. We want to find better words for all people who identify outside of heterosexual and strict gender boundaries. For now, we use LGBTQ.

the head of the Air Force’s sexual assault prevention unit was arrested for sexual assault.

Where do you believe the focus should be?

DS: The most prevalent issues in trans politics during the last 15 years of movement growth have been poverty and criminalization because these are the issues impacting most trans populations. Trans activists have been loudly critical of U.S. prison growth and of police violence, and have done work at the local, state, and national levels to address key policy issues that result in the poverty and imprisonment facing trans communities. The international solidarity campaign that emerged in 2012 around the case of CeCe McDonald, a trans woman who was imprisoned after defending herself from a racist and transphobic attacker, captured the collective rage of people tired of seeing trans people victimized in criminal systems.

It is a sad statement about U.S. social movements that their agendas appear to be determined by the whims of a few wealthy donors. Those agendas are then propped up by a conservative, consolidated media that ignores grassroots mobilization and reports on stories most aligned with dominant U.S. ideas like the glorification of war. [...]

Summing up, what’s your bottom line here?

DS: The military inclusion campaign is not something that we have strategically decided is a good next step for trans politics and it is not something that will improve most trans people’s lives. What makes sense for trans politics is to be aligned with anti-war and anti-military movements worldwide. We have nothing to gain for being the new poster children for a U.S. military branded as inclusive because it lets women serve in combat and has openly LGBT service members. This is shoddy window dressing for the realities of U.S. militarism, which is bad for the world and certainly bad for populations, like women and LGBT people, who are targets of sexual and gender violence.

The Fence with No Sense

I’m stuck behind this fence,
it makes no sense;
Deep inside this place of restriction,
There is so much friction.
The officers cause lots of trouble to others,
Why can’t we unite and stand together as brothers?
The words of most is so painful,
So many put downs we feel so shameful.
We’re stuck behind this fence,
it makes no sense;
We’ve mostly become a forgotten minority
The public screams lock ‘em up, it’s a priority.
With us out of sight and out of mind,
Society stays with their daily grind.
All of you who know of us out there,
Do you even still have hearts to care?
I’ve no one on the outside anymore,
my heart’s so empty and spirit’s so poor,
I’m stuck behind this fence,
it just makes no sense!
Hey you outside this fence, Does this make any sense?

—Ducky “Ducktape”, Florida

Still Fighting

As I sit in my cell on my stool
looking out my window shaking my head what
a fool, what a fool...
Many years of segregation really got my
mind racing...
How much farther do I gotta go before
the administration please throw me a
blessing...
Thirteen years of separation, cut off from
the society within the prison...
I’ve become my own worst enemy even my
mind has started playing tricks on me...
24hrs a day 5-times a week I lay in this
cell restless heartless, sometimes breathless...
But the fight in me won’t let me give up that
easy...
Writing books, poems and songs is how I
stay on my greezy...
Gotta stay busy if I want to survive mentally...
I’ve seen bloodshed, even homies have taken
their own life, I’ll be damned if that’ll be me...
I pray for extra courage and strength to
be given to me every night before I go to
sleep...
Cause it’s hard traveling this journey along, my
support system keep stressing I need to make it
home...
I got 6 more years of segregation left
but 2 years until I can finally take my re-birth
breathe...
This is for all my brothers and sisters
nationwide that’s locked up in confinement
Stay strong and stay focused, I salute the
strong...

—Dyvon, Illinois

The Note

A shadow falls across the floor
and swallows up a little more
than a single letter lying prone
an inch away from where it was thrown.
The shadow stops, then shifts its weight,
and ghost-like fingers scratch a globe-like pate,
as if its mind were to debate:
How came this here?
Oh, what’s the matter!?
Little does he know
that the letter there
was delicately written;
handled with the utmost care.
The shadow bends,
the paper lifts,
and glazed eyes glitter
at the unexpected gift:

“We miss you, Son;
your time’s almost done.
Hang on just a bit-
though we know
your life’s taken a hit-
you can survive the blow;
you’ve not been laid low...
and (just so you know),
both He and I
have been with you from the get-go.

So, chin up!
Back straight!
Never give up;
for we’ll see you, someday, at Heaven’s gate.
The days seem long,
but please remain strong.
I’ll be here waiting...”
Love,
Mom

— “Gigi” Gilbert, Virginia

Assurance

Positiveness
That’s a tough act to follow
On this road of redemption
They never mention tomorrow
Incompetent doctors prescribe pills of swine
To make my perception blind
From the back of my mind a voice streamed
Gay Pride!
They tried to strip me from myself
I’ve been hoodwinked and bamboozled
They tried to put me on a shelf
Chains couldn’t hold me down
A cell couldn’t make me frown
We are all in the same struggle
Black & Pink, Yellow & Brown
And I’m in the laboratory right now
Thinking, scientifically thinking
Positive energy abandoned ship
And left the negative energy sinking
I’m tired of all these labels
I bring the truth to the table
I’m down with Adam and Steve
If Eve can bring Louise to remain stable

—Hakim, Virginia

Mail Call

Darkness and loneliness fill my cell
With pain and fear too great to yell.
I wait for the mailman to deliver to me
As I wipe away tears that no one will see.
I pray so sincere with head raised above
Please God soon send a letter of love.

I long to gaze upon pages so dear
With riches to bring my loved one near.
Words of diamonds on pages of gold
A message from heaven as their story is told!
We love you. We miss you. Pray you’ll be free-
A treasure filled envelope just for me.

Please bring memories of joy I once knew
Family, friends and things I would do
The darkness and pain of my cell will prevail
As my name, again, was not called for mail.

—Leon aka Puppy, Texas

“A Heart’s Cry”

I hate this body I’m in,
Slowly I feel like I’m dying within.

Over & over I feel this pain,
Sometimes I wanna shut down so it won’t happen
again.

Here it goes again I’m being choked,
Punched, kicked, stabbed, and poked.

When will this torture stop I wonder,
Please body put me first not up under.

How much more abuse can I take,
This is real blood I bleed, it’s not fake.

I wanna love again someday and not fall apart,
For once, you damn fool, listen to me, Your Heart!

—Nancy aka Angel, Texas

My Love

Rose are red,
Violets are blue,
My love is true
Just to you

My love was lost,
But now it’s found
I never knew love
Until we were bound

My love was gone,
but now it’s here
Forever my love is
True to you, dear

Roses are red,
Violets are blue
My love is here for
All of you!

Forever I love you all LGBTQ Family!
—Brielle Jell-o, Louisiana

“Yours”

This body of mine is yours
take it
beyond these everyday shores
on a bed
with dirty sheets, or on hard wood floors
on my knees
as i please
or on my back as i moan and plead
this body of mine is yours

—Charlemagne, Texas



By Julio Salgado <http://juliosalgado83.tumblr.com>

This was in the Soviet Union and there was no information to explain what was happening to me. I went to dances dressed as a girl back when I looked more feminine.

I also started taking hormone pills on my own, but they made me sick, and once an ambulance had to be called for me. I had to stop taking the pills, and for five or six years after that I couldn’t take any pills at all.

You have to understand the complete lack of information on this subject. According to statistics, there are thousands of people going through what I went through. Just imagine all the kids who have no idea what’s happening to them. I never once met a homosexual in my childhood and only learned what a homosexual was when I was 14. By then, I had long known that I was a woman and I had been wearing women’s clothes for years.

So it isn’t a matter of upbringing. It’s nature. That’s why I think the law against “homosexual propaganda” is a law against children and one that targets certain social groups. It is a fascist law and nothing else.

Q: And how do you feel now after coming out?

A: If we use terms that are frequently used to describe outer space, I would say that before coming out I was like a black hole. Now, though, I am expanding and becoming happier and happier. I’m like a bird that’s finally free. I don’t regret it. I did the right thing. [...]

Q: Do you have any advice for young trans people? Especially for those who haven’t come out?

A: Come out. The sooner, the better. Don’t be afraid of your parents. Too many trans people worry about how society sees them and think they’re a problem for society. Don’t think that. It is your right. If it makes someone uncomfortable, that’s their problem. And especially for young trans women, don’t be afraid to go to a doctor. There are good doctors in Moscow and some in St. Petersburg who won’t judge you.

We’re all evolving. It isn’t clear what humankind will be like in 100,000 years, in a million years. This idea of what is traditional, which is rooted in the Middle Ages, simply doesn’t match reality. Evolution is ongoing. It isn’t an issue of right or wrong. If there is a family, we have to recognize it. If it is a same-sex family, we have to recognize it. There are many different types of families. [...]

Q: Do you consider yourself brave?

A: I hadn’t thought about that. What is bravery? Because I came out? I wasn’t trying to prove that I was brave. It was my choice. I’m a free person. Bravery and freedom are one and the same in my case. You have to be brave to be free. The freer a person is, the braver they have to be.

Originally Published by *The Moscow Times*
Editor’s Update: Masha Best has since launched a Russian Presidential Campaign

ARTWORK FORM & FAMILY FEEDBACK!

On the Inside Artwork Form

Black & Pink is facilitating the revival of the art program in a new way, called On the Inside! If you are an artist, here’s how it will work. Create any artwork that you would like (drawings, cards, paintings). Some of the artwork will be accepted for an upcoming exhibit; the artist will be promptly compensated \$50 for all accepted artwork (except \$10 for cards) and postage expenses incurred. Any artwork that isn’t accepted for the exhibit for any reason will be promptly returned to the artist, or other address. If your artwork is accepted for the Exhibition, you assign all right, title and interest in the work to us (in other words you transfer ownership of the art and its copyrights to the Exhibit coordinators) as consideration for participation in the show. The artwork will never be resold, and will likely be donated to an LGBTQ Archive in years to come. **Please do not write your name and number anywhere on the front of the artwork to protect your privacy. We are all excited to see what you create! Please fill out a questions 1 through 6 once, and questions 7 through 10 on separate slip like this for each piece of artwork you submit. Please mail the artwork with the information below on slips to:**

On the Inside, PO Box 173, 2658 Griffith Park Blvd. , Los Angeles, CA 90039

- 1)Your preferred name for the exhibit.
- 2)Your gender pronouns (eg. she / he / xe / they).
- 3)How do you identify? (Optional: gender, sexuality, race, age).
- 4)Your legal name, number, and mailing address.
- 5)If my artwork is not accepted for the exhibit:
__ Send it to my address (please list)
__ Send it to another address (please list)
__ Black & Pink can keep and display it
- 6)Preferred method of compensation:
__ Donation into commissary account (Please include deposit slips or instructions):
__ Magazines/books (Details)
__ Other:
- 7)Title of artwork (for display at exhibit).
- 8)Description of artwork (for display at exhibit).
- 9)Anything else you’d like the exhibit curator to know about the artwork or about yourself which can be shared / feel free to write on another page, and please note that the exhibit curator is not able to be a penpal):

10) I, _____ (Name), give On the Inside permission for my artwork to be exhibited in person, press, catalogues, internet, etc. Sign: _____ Date: _____

BLACK & PINK INCARCERATED FAMILY FEEDBACK!
-----rip slip here-----

We are planning to do a survey of the people who receive the Black and Pink newspaper. We want to be able to tell the stories of what is happening with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, same-gender loving, gender non-conforming, queer people in prisons across the United States. Black and Pink has connection to the largest number of LGBTQ prisoners of anyone, we reach over 3,500 prisoners each month. We want to hear stories about who you are and share them with all of you and also share them with the general public. Our goals of the survey are to get information about the realities of prison experiences for LGBTQ people in prison, hear stories of resistance, hear stories of hardship, and share those stories to build the power of our movement. The survey will run for a couple of months in the newspaper. We want to know what questions you would want on the survey. It will be an additional page in the newspaper, so we will not lose standard newspaper space. Individuals who fill out the survey will receive a certificate of completion and each person who fills out a survey will be entered into a contest to win a book of their choice. Feel free to include another piece of paper if you need more space for answers.

Share one or two questions you would like to see on the survey (such as, “Have you had romantic partners while incarcerated?” or “Describe a time you asserted your rights in prison, what happened?”) _____

How could a survey like this be useful to you? _____

Who should we share a final report with? _____



Black & Pink LGBTQ Pen-Pal Information Form!

If you have not done so in the past 12 months (to reduce mail so we reply faster), please mail this form to **Black and Pink –Form**, and include a picture & “first letter” written to a potential new pen-pal for us to scan if you wish!

“I understand that anyone who uses the internet can search and find my information and picture. I agree to this information being posted online.” Sign: _____ Date _____

Preferred Name: _____ Pronoun (she/he/ze): _____
Your Legal Name: _____ #: _____
Address: _____

Please check ☒ the types of pen-pal relationships you are interested in:
(Please note most “free world” pen-pals that visit our website are *not* interested in romance or sexy letters)

<input type="checkbox"/> Having a pen-pal friendship	<input type="checkbox"/> Having a pen-pal romance	<input type="checkbox"/> Receive cards from “card parties”?
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing about social justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing sexy/erotic letters	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, send me cards _____ No _____

Please provide this optional information if you want! People can search most of these items on our website:

Age & Birth date		/	/	In Solitary Confinement?	
Race				Does anyone write you now? How many people write?	
Gender					
Sexuality				Specific types of pen-pals you are looking for: (<i>Most pen-pals want non-romantic friendships</i>)	
Faith					
Non-English Language					
Release Date?				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Can you get mail from / write to <i>all other prisoners?</i>	No, I can't! _____ Yes, I can! _____
HIV Status (<i>private</i>)					

Tell us about who you are (for example, your background, hobbies and interests, beliefs, situation, etc!): _____
If you have a webpage: www. _____

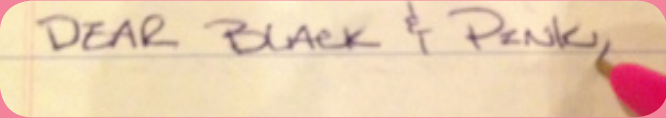
Do we have permission to display a picture of you from a corrections website? _____ Yes _____ No _____
Names and email addresses of any current pen-pals so we can involve them in Black and Pink: _____

Your address, email and phone upon release (if applicable) so that we can keep you involved in the family: _____

MAIL TO: Black and Pink– Form, 614 Columbia Rd, Dorchester, MA 02125

ADDRESSES: PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESSES FOR MAIL!

Please Note: You can send multiple requests/topics in one envelope! For privacy concerns, others can’t sign you up for the newsletter, but you can include a newsletter subscription with any other request. There’s no need to send separate requests in more than one envelope.

	Black & Pink - _____ 614 Columbia Rd Dorchester, MA 02125
If you would like to request:	Please write one or more of these topics in the top line of the address:
Newsletter Subscriptions (Start or Stop)	Black & Pink - Newsletter Subscriptions
Newsletter Submissions (Poems, Art & Stories)	Black & Pink - Newsletter Submissions
“Outside” Free Pen-Pal Request (Please note: Pen-Pal Request Form will be in this newsletter quarterly)	Black & Pink - Pen-Pal
Address Change (Will take a little time to update; at this time, we are mostly unable to send back issues.)	Black & Pink - Address Change
Black & Pink Organization Feedback (especially the slip on Page 7)	Black & Pink - Feedback
Request Erotica	Black & Pink - Erotica
Submit to Erotica Zine	Black & Pink - Gabrielle
Religious Support	Black & Pink - Religion
Volunteering (Send thank you cards to donors, etc.)	Black & Pink - Volunteer
Advocacy Requests (include details about situation and thoughts about how calls or letters might help)	Black & Pink - Advocacy

LEGAL: Consider writing to Lambda Legal for support or referrals with legal issues that you are having. “Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.” Lambda Legal, National Office 120 Wall Street, Suite 1500, New York, NY 10005, 212-809-8585

Assistance with legal research for everyone, and preparing for disciplinary and parole hearings *only* for people in Massachusetts.
Hotline (9am-5pm EST): 617-495-3127 By mail: Prison Legal Assistance Project, 6 Everett Street, Suite 5107, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA 02138

Another resource to turn to, if you can afford the subscription (\$24 yearly, payable with new stamps), is Prison Legal News. This resource was co-started by a former gay prisoner and Men Against Sexism organizer, Ed Mead, though now it is run by Paul Wright. You can reach them by writing to: Prison Legal News, P.O. Box 2420, West Brattleboro, VT 05303

SURVIVORS: Just Detention International provides support for prisoners who are survivors of sexual abuse. Write them at the legal address below for a packet. Each packet includes an introductory letter, a list of local resources, fact sheets, publications about recovery from sexual abuse, and a letter of hope from another survivor. Ms. Chris Daley, Esq., 3325 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 340, Los Angeles, CA 90010